

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for processing incoming calls according to at least the H.323 protocol comprising:
 - receiving at least first and second incoming calls;
 - retaining the first incoming call in a first state;
 - waiting until the first incoming call progresses to a second state;
 - answering the second incoming call and placing it in the first state after the first incoming call progresses to the second state; and
 - transitioning the second incoming call in the first state to a second state.
2. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the first state is a pending answer state and the second state is a call connected state.
3. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:
 - starting a timer when placing the second incoming call in the first state; and
 - hanging up the second incoming call and placing it in a third state if the timer expires.
4. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:
 - waiting until the first incoming call progresses to a third state; and
 - answering the second incoming call and placing it in the first state if the first incoming call progresses to the third state.
5. A processor-based videoconferencing station comprising a medium storing instructions for causing the processor to:
 - receive at least first and second incoming calls according to at least the H.323 protocol;
 - retain the first incoming call in a first state;
 - wait until the first incoming call progresses to a second state;

answer the second incoming call and place it in the first state after the first incoming call progresses to the second state; and
transition the second incoming call in the first state to a second state.

6. The station as recited in claim 5 wherein the first state is a pending answer state and the second state is a call connected state.

7. The station as recited in claim 5, wherein the medium further stores instructions for causing the processor to:
start a timer when placing the second incoming call in the first state; and
hang up the second incoming call and place it in a third state if the timer expires.

8. The station as recited in claim 5, wherein the medium further stores instructions for causing the processor to:
wait until the first incoming call progresses to a third state; and
answer the second incoming call and place it in the first state if the first incoming call progresses to the third state.

9. A processor-based video conferencing station comprising:
a receiver for at least first and second incoming calls according to at least the H.323 protocol;
a memory for maintaining the state of each incoming call in at least first and second states; and
an analyzer for retaining the first incoming call in a first state; waiting until the first incoming call progresses to the second state; answering the second incoming call and placing it in the first state after the first incoming call progresses to the second state; and transitioning the second incoming call in the first state to the second state.

10. The station of claim 9, wherein the first state is a pending answer state and the second state is a call connected state.

11. The station of claim 9, wherein the analyzer is further for:
starting a timer when placing the second incoming call in the first state; and
hanging up the second incoming call and placing it in a third state if the timer
expires.
12. The station of claim 9, wherein the analyzer is further for:
waiting until the first incoming call progresses to a third state; and
answering the second incoming call and placing it in the first state if the first
incoming call progresses to the third state.